

Message Text

PAGE 01 SINGAP 05633 160741Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /040 W

----- 023885 /21/47

R 151035Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6751

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 5633

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T P A R A 7

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN

SUBJ: THAI AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE'S COMMENTS ON LEE KUAN
YEW-THANIN TALKS

REF: SINGAPORE 5613

1. FOLLOWING UP MY MORNING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
RAJARATNAM (REFTEL), I CALLED ON THAI AMBASSADOR JETN SUCHARITKUL
ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 14 TO SEE WHAT MORE I COULD LEARN
FROM HIM ABOUT THE LEE KUAN YEW-THANIN TALKS. I FOUND HIM
HAPPY TO OBLIGE.

2. JETN CONFIRMED THE HEAVY EMPHASIS PLACED BY THE TWO LEADERS
ON ASEAN ECONOMIC MATTERS, ESPECIALLY THE NEED FOR TANGIBLE
ECONOMIC PROGRESS. HE NOTED THAT TWO ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED
WHICH HAD BEEN HOLDING UP PROGRESS:

(A) AS REPORTED BY RAJARATNAM, SOME KIND OF DISPUTE BETWEEN
FINANCE MINISTERS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS IN INDONESIA AND THE
SECRET

PAGE 02 SINGAP 05633 160741Z

PHILIPPINES; AND (B) AN ORGANIZATION-WIDE DISAGREEMENT ON
EXTENT TO WHICH PRIVATE CAPITAL WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ACQUIRE
EQUITY IN THE FIVE ASEAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. BOTH
ISSUES APPEARED TO BE ON THE ROAD TO RECONCILIATION, ALTHOUGH

THANIN PLANNED TO PURSUE THE FIRST MATTER FURTHER DURING HIS VISIT TO MANILA.

3. ON THE EQUITY QUESTION, JETN COMMENTED THAT GENERAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AMONG SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, AND THE PHILIPPINES TO ALLOW PRIVATE SOURCES, INCLUDING FOREIGN INVESTORS, TO ACQUIRE UP TO 20 PERCENT OF EQUITY. INDONESIA, HOWEVER, WAS STANDING FIRM ON FULL GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

4. JETN ADMITTED THAT NOT MUCH HAD BEEN DONE SINCE THE BALI SUMMIT BY WAY OF BRINGING THE FIVE ASEAN PROJECTS CLOSER TO REALITY. ONLY SINGAPORE HAD ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON ITS DIESEL ENGINES PROJECT, AND IN FACT HAD NOW DETERMINED TO DROP BOTH HIGH AND LOW-HORSEPOWER ENGINE PRODUCTION IN FAVOR OF MEDIUM-HORSEPOWER UNITS WHICH HAD A MULTIPLICITY OF USES.

5. NEVERTHELESS, JETN SAID, THANIN REMAINED OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ECONOMIC PROJECTS; SO MUCH SO, IN FACT, THAT THANIN WAS NOW PUSHING FOR ANOTHER ASEAN SUMMIT AS EARLY AS NEXT FEBRUARY. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WOULD BE TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS ALREADY MADE AND TO LAY OUT GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. WITHOUT CITING MY SOURCE (RAJARATNAM) I SAID I HAD HEARD THE SUMMIT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JUNE, AND JETN RESPONDED BY STATING THIS DATE HAD INDEED BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION, BUT SINCE LEAVING SINGAPORE THANIN HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT AN EARLIER MEETING WAS FEASIBLE (NOTE: FROM THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT IF THANIN IS OPTING FOR A FEBRUARY SUMMIT HE HAS NOT YET CLEARED THIS WITH ALL ASEAN LEADERS).

6. I ASKED JETN IF SECURITY MATTERS HAD COME UP DURING THE LEE-THANIN DISCUSSIONS AND HE ADMITTED KNOWLEDGE ONLY OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THAI SECURITY TEAM TO COME TO SINGAPORE TO STUDY SINGAPORE SPECIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS (I HAVE ALREADY REPORTED THIS SEPARATELY). ACCORDING TO JETN, LEE AND THANIN HAD TWO LONG PRIVATE TALKS LASTING FOR OVER FOUR HOURS, WITH
SECRET

PAGE 03 SINGAP 05633 160741Z

THE REST OF THEIR DELEGATIONS SITTING AROUND OUTSIDE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, AND WHILE SECURITY MATTERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOUCHED UPON, HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT THANIN HAD YET PROVIDED A BRIEFING OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED. JETN DID MENTION, HOWEVER, THAT DURING A MEETING OF THE FULL DELEGATIONS THANIN HAD REFERRED TO THE CONCEPT OF "COLLECTIVE SECURITY"; THIS JETN HAD TAKEN TO MEAN A PROCESS OF WORKING OUT STRICTLY BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONS AMONG ALL THE ASEAN PARTNERS. HE ASSUMED THANIN WAS ANTICIPATING THAT LATER ON A LESS CUMBERSOME ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT WHICH WOULD AT THE SAME TIME AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF TURNING ASEAN INTO A MILITARY PACT.

7. JETN INDICATED PERSONAL UNHAPPINESS OVER SOME OF THANIN'S

PHRASEOLOGY (E.G. "COLLECTIVE SECURITY"), ATTRIBUTING THIS TO THANIN'S INEXPERIENCE IN DIPLOMACY AND LACK OF AWARENESS THAT ONE'S WORDS NEEDED TO BE WEIGHED CAREFULLY (I ASSUME THAT JETN WAS IN EFFECT VOICING CRITICISM OF SOME RECENT STATEMENTS APPEARING IN THE PRESS RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO THAILAND). JETN CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT LEE KUAN YEW HAD SPENT SOME TIME DURING HIS LONG PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH THANIN BRINGING THE LATTER INTO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF REGIONAL DIPLOMATIC REALITIES. FROM WHAT RAJARATNAM HAD SAID TO ME EARLIER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT SUCH INDEED WAS THE CASE. HOLDRIDGE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 16 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP05633
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760461-1061
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761293/baaenwd.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE'S COMMENTS ON LEE KUAN YEW-THANIN TALKS
TAGS: EGEN, SN, TH, ASEAN, (LEE KUAN YEW), (JETN SUCHARITKUL), (THANIN KRAIWICHIAN)
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
KUALA LUMPUR
JAKARTA
MANILA
TOKYO

CINCPAC

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006